

Origin of Common Oaths.

The expression, "Don't care a damn," is said to have been invented by the Duke of Wellington. Its derivation is most innocent, the duke referred to being an Indian coin, a dam, of infinite value. The curse in "not worth a curse" is identical with the plant "cress." The expression is so used in the work of the fourteenth century. "Piers Ploughman's Vision." The English were known as "Goddams" as far back as the time of the Mar of Orleans. Joan addressed the Earls of Warwick and Stafford, when they held out to her hopes of ransom, as follows: "I know you will you have neither the will nor power to ransom me. You think when you have slain me you will conquer France, but that you will never bring that about. No, although there were 100,000 Goddams in this land more than there are." "By Jingo" comes to us from the Basque peasants who have long sworn by Jingo, which is the Basque name for God. "What the deuce," is said to have reached as far back as the Norman conquest, when "Dus" was a favorite exclamation among the Norman knights. We now come to the vulgar and objectionable epithet "bloody." This is said to have originated in the aristocratic oath of days gone by. "Be'r lady," but we are assured by our present authority that it is simply the German "blutig" which our soldiers brought with them from the Netherlands. The word, which is now seldom heard except in the mouths of the lowest of the people, was not formerly considered objectionable. It is used in Dryden by Sir George Etheldredge, in the "Man of Mode" by Shakspeare in "Macbeth" and other plays; by Beaumont and Fletcher in "Philaster," in "Piers Ploughman," and we find Dean Swift writing to his love, Stella, "I grow bloody cold, and I have no waistcoat." Laws have often been made against swearing. In March, 1649, a quarter-master in Cromwell's rebel army was found guilty of swearing and condemned to have his tongue bored with a red hot iron. His sword broken over his head, and himself ignominiously dismissed from the service. A writer in later days proposed to deal with the habit in a different way. He said the clergy encouraged swearing by declaring it to be a sin, and that the custom would die out if it was heaved to be a virtuous one. He added that a clergyman of his acquaintance not only assured his congregation that swearing was wrong, but constantly used oaths in his sermons in order to prove that was right.

The Missouri Democracy.

Fusion and faction and various other causes have combined to reduce the once boasted democratic majorities of Missouri to a comparatively narrow margin. Time was that Missouri might fairly compete with Georgia, Alabama and Texas for the banner, but of later years the state has become the field of a combination of intriguing politicians, who have not been altogether unsuccessful; and the Missouri democracy should not rest content until they have made good their pristine supremacy.

The result of last week's election is satisfactory, not so much in the amount as in the effects of its figures. It returns to the executive chair a sterling democrat, in the person of General Marmaduke, and to congress a delegation which, with one unfortunate exception, is unbroken.

It now remains for the party to bury all its own household differences and resentments, and for Governor Marmaduke to furnish an administration in which the whole people shall have confidence. This there is every reason to believe he will do, and that he will be cordially supported, not only by his political adherents, but by his opponents and good citizens generally.

Now that a new democratic era is about to open, we may expect Missouri to regain whatever of her former prestige she may have lost, and her old time majorities to be gradually restored.—Washington Post.

Not the Negro's Friend.

Washington, D. C., Nov. 19.—The following narrative is related here to-day: A dozen or more years ago Mr. Blaine was in the habit of going to the barber shop at the Arlington hotel, when his beard needed trimming or his hair required cutting. Upon one occasion he and some other gentlemen present in the shop, became engaged in a political discussion touching upon the status of the colored people and their relation to the Republican party. Mr. Blaine freely expressed himself as not being in sympathy with the advanced men of his party on the subject and finally said: "Oh, the negroes are no good."

The colored barbers in the shop were all chagrined and dumbfounded that such a remark should have come from so eminent an apostle of the Republican party, and Campbell, the proprietor of the shop, while making no outward demonstration, ever afterward invariably avoided waiting upon Mr. Blaine when he came into the establishment. The brush boy, an exceedingly bright and observant youngster, also and very naturally took Mr. Blaine's unjust and unfounded remark to heart, and has kept it fresh in his memory from that time to this, having now developed into one of the most accomplished and popular social artists of Washington. During the campaign recently closed he was an ardent sympathizer with the Democrats, finding it impossible, as he said, to take any interest in the candidacy of a man who had wantonly expressed such a disparaging opinion of his race. On last Sunday morning, at the moment he was greeted with the pleasant intelligence that his young wife had made him the father of a bouncing twelve-pound boy. Grateful for these two coincident instances of good luck, the happy father decreed that his boy should be christened Cleveland, and Cleveland it will be.

Farmers' Accounts.

Every farm should understand enough of business to know the cost of all his productions; should be able to tell the cost of an acre of grain, so that when he sells it will be possible for him to determine the profit or loss, as well as be a workman. Everybody is complaining of the hard times, and none more so than the farmers, for prices are low, and, unfortunately for Californians, we have not learned to bring our expenses down to correspond, and to raise our productions up to paying profits over expenses. The greatest expense we have is interest on borrowed money and there is hardly a farmer to-day who is not in debt for his capital, and which must be paid, whether or no. That takes one-third of the grass crop. The next is the waste in family and barn; this leak can be easily remedied if taken hold of in time. The last—which is never considered—is the loss of fertility with every crop. Times will become still harder unless these especial expenses are curtailed. Many farmers will say that the land will wear out naturally, and we cannot make it pay all the time. The Old World teaches us that the yield can be increased by feeding the land and by proper cultivation so that we can double the present returns.—N. Y. Evening Post.

A very interesting case of man's perfidy and woman's trust recently occurred in Hoboken. Minnie Henning was a beautiful woman of twenty-two, who lived with her mother in Hoboken, and was employed as a shop-girl in New York until she married middle-aged Jasper W. Keen, who told her he was divorced from a former wife. Minnie's husband of her youth had died three years ago. It turned out that the perfidious Keen had a living wife when he married Minnie, and was keeping house with her, too. His attentions were so divided that he could not keep up the two matrimonial establishments without causing distrust and making trouble in both. At length Minnie learned of the other wife, and was stricken with shame and grief, wrote letters to her mother and brother, took poison and died. Keen was informed of the tragedy he had caused, and kept away from the corpse of his victim.

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